LIVE NOTES ABOUT NEWEST BOOKS AND THEIR MAKERS

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY IN THE ORIENT—PICTURESQUE VOLUME OF INTEREST.

A BOOK which is certain to prove valuable to students of current history, or, for that matter, of any history, is the Hon. John W. Foster's new work entitled "American Diplomacy in the Orient." It may in some sense be considered a companion volume to his "Century of American Diplomacy." Like its predecessor, it is interesting from cover to cover.

It is, of course, easy to see without even glancing at the table of contents what the subjects of many of the chapters must be. Our relations with the Orient are so recent and so picturesque that the history of most of them is impressed indelibly upon the memories of persons now living. Nevertheless, there are matters in this connection which are not completely understood by the general public, and even for the contemporary observer it is not always easy to get a comprehensive view of history in the making. Mr. Foster's book is valuable because it does afford such a view; and interesting as it is to us it will be even more so to the future historian.

Looking Backward.

To adopt the Chinese fashion of reading, and begin at the end of the book, the last chapters are concerned with the Spanish war and the acquisition of the Philippines, the Chinese complication, the Samoan trouble, and the annexation of Hawaii. Going backward, we find less familiar phrases in the earlier chapters—the enfranchisement of Japan, the history of Korea, our relations with China in the 70's, the opening of Japan, the American settlement of Hawaii, the "opium war," the opening of diplomatic relations between the Orient and America, and the early relations between Europe and Japan, discussed in the first chapter. All these matters are of vital interest to Americans in this, the critical period of our entrance into active international relations. It can never be too often or too strongly stated that the average American rules this country, and that the average American cannot afford to be guided by emotion, prejudice, or blind faith in his leaders when it comes to international relations. It is bad enough to make these mistakes in our own affairs, but they are more likely to settle themselves there than they are when made in our relations with other countries, whose alien thought and tradition, and possible unfriendly action, may complicate the results of the blunder.

Until now the average American has too often gloried in knowing little of any other country but his own. There is probably more of this blatant Americanism in the air now than there was in the early history of the republic, when many American youths went abroad to complete their education, and when we still had to look to Europe for the best mechanical methods and the finest products of art and industry. The era of hop-skip-and-jump diplomacy had not then set in for us, and it has lasted, as many thoughtful Americans now believe, quite long enough. If our relations with other nations are to be guided in the future by intelligent thought, and not by ward politics or waves of emotion, it is well that the study of diplomacy should become general, and for this purpose Mr. Foster's book is excellent.

Japan's Diplomatic Liberality.

The early relations between Japan and China and the European world make interesting reading, albeit the conclusion is not very flattering to the Occident. Japan especially showed a spirit of liberality which goes far to justify the claims it made at that time of superiority to the Western world. Mr. Foster says of sixteenth century Japan:

"Both in regard to religion and commerce it may be said that the government of Japan at that period exhibited more liberality to the nations of Europe than the latter exhibited to each other. Velasco, the governor general of the Philipines, in an account of a visit which he made to the country in 1608, relates an anecdote of the Shogun, who was urged by the Buddhist priests to suppress the Christians. 'How many sects may there be in Japan?' he asked. 'Thirty-five,' was the reply, referring to the many Buddhist sects. 'Well,' he said, 'we can easily bear with thirty-six.'"

Here is a picturesque incident, worthy of the pen of the historical novelist:

"In 1582 three of the nobility, representing as many of the Christian princes, attended by a suite befitting their station, made a visit to Rome, to pay their respects to the head of the Catholic Church. They were received with distinguished attention by the crowned heads and people in their journey through Portugal, Spain, and the various states of Italy. They were welcomed with all possible pomp and ceremony by the aged Pope, who at the close of the audience, pronounced the words of Simeon: 'Nunc dimittis.'"

Diplomatic and commercial relations between the Western world and Japan were finally broken off through the misconduct of the foreigners residing in the Isle of the Dragon Fly.

American Initiative.

It is not generally known that the first efforts made in modern times to establish commercial and diplomatic relations with the Orient came from the United States. Early in the 50's Edmund Roberts, of New Hampshire, was dispatched with two naval vessels, by President Jackson, "for the purpose of examining, in the Indian Ocean, the means of extending the commerce of the United States by commercial arrangements with the powers whose dominions border on those seas." The efforts of Mr. Roberts resulted in the execution of a treaty of amity and commerce between the Siamese government and the United States, the first diplomatic instrument ever executed by the United States with a ruling power in Asia. In China he was less successful, meeting with various obstacles due to Chinese suspicion and formality.

An amusing incident occurred in the course of his conference with the Chinese officials. The officials raised some question as to the right of the American agent to communicate with the minister of state because of his lower rank. When they asked him what were his titles he replied that there was no order of nobility in the United States. They insisted that a person who had been honored with a special mission, as had Mr. Roberts, must have some title, and that it was necessary for them to know this in order to see if his rank was equal to that of the minister of state.

The American concluded to give them what they seemed to want, and the principal deputy prepared his pencil and half a sheet of paper, but was told, much to his surprise, that he would need a whole sheet, though for their minister's titles the smaller space would have been more than enough.

A Titled American.

The astute Yankee then gave his name and title as "Edmund Roberts, a Special Envoy from the United States, and a citizen of Portsmouth, in the State of New Hampshire," proceeding to add to these titles the names of all the counties in the State. The scribe, with some difficulty, translated these names into Chinese, and in the meantime was obliged to call for a fresh sheet of paper. It was Mr. Roberts' intention, if they wanted any more titles, to add to his list the names of the towns, mountains, rivers and lakes of New Hampshire.

The Chinese official was tired, the ship was rolling, and he complained of a headache, postponing further record of the titles till next day; but as the list already exceeded the titles of the highest person in the empire, no more objection was made on the score of the American envoy's rank.

The story of Perry's expedition is familiar to most students of American history. The career of Townsend Harris, of New York, the minister who completed the work which Perry had begun, is not so familiar. It was through his suggestion that, in May, 1860, an embassy from Japan visited Washington and was entertained by the President and the Secretary of State, and by the wealthy families of other cities on the Atlantic seaboard. The chief ambassador wrote home:

"Though I have not yet seen the capital, I have already amassed knowledge and experience enough to pile up a mountain or fill up a sea. But of these, were I to speak with you, three-fourths will be a relation of what I grieve for in my country."

This, of course, was the beginning of that extraordinary facility in the acquirement and application of Western ideas, which has been shown by the Japanese in the last half century, a facility which, however, is more apparent than real, so far as any radical change in Japanese character is concerned. Lafcadio Hearn argues that Occidental customs have been taken on by the Japanese simply as an experiment, and that, after testing their usefulness, the sagacious Oriental will keep just so much of his knowledge as he can adapt to his own needs, and let the rest, including missionary teachings and foreign dress, slip away from him as a tale that is told.

Eastern Experiments in Western Ways.

We have not yet, in spite of many lessons, mastered the idea that the Oriental regards foreigners as barbarians and inferiors, and is about as likely to change his character to conform to their ideas as we should be to change ours in similar circumstances. To infer that Japan is becoming Americanized because some of her wealthy people have adopted American dress is about as logical as it would be to say that the United States is becoming Africanized because the cakewalk is occasionally seen in fashionable ballrooms, and "Uncle Remus" is read with delight by everybody.

Curious lights are thrown on the Chinese character in the chapter on Chinese immigration, which contains some facts on the coolie trade. Mr. Foster says:

"Many of the poorest classes of the Chinese, in the hope of bettering their condition, were induced to enter into contracts of service for a term of years under tempting conditions as to wages, and thus become voluntary but deceived emigrants. As the demand increased and the supply of willing contract laborers became insufficient, Chinese in large numbers were kidnaped from their homes, native procurers or pimps being employed to do the needful work of the so-called contractors. They were confined in barracoons at Macao, and thence sent off in shiploads to their destined places of slavery.

Facts About the Coolie Trade.

"The transportation of these wretched creatures was attended with great privations, and in many instances with experiences of the most cruel and revolting character. The coolies often on the voyage discovered that they had been seduced under false pretenses as to their destination or the character of service, mutinied and killed the officers and crew, returned to China; or, being overpowered, many of them were killed and the rest kept as prisoners. Suicides were frequent and deaths from ill-treatment and diseases were numerous.

"In one case the mutinous coolies set fire to the vessel, whereupon the captain and crew, battening down the hatches, took to the boats and left the six hundred Chinese to perish miserably. Other instances of nearly equal horror occurred.

"The inefficiency or indifference of the Chinese government is shown in the fact that its subjects in such large numbers could be carried away from its dominions and so cruelly maltreated without any serious effort to put an end to the evil. The local authorities in a feeble way sought to repress kidnaping and the imposition practiced on the people, but to little purpose, as for many years the traffic flourished. Among the documents on the subject sent to Washington by Minister Parker, who was the most vigorous champion in the crusade against the traffic, there is found a proclamation issued by the gentry of Amoy, warning their countrymen against the kidnapers and the seducers of the lower classes by false promises, and bemoaning the sad fate of those sold into slavery.

Indifference of Chinese Government.

"'They might,' it says, 'implore heaven, and their tears may wet the earth, but their complaints are uttered in vain. When carried to the barbarous regions, day and night they are compelled to labor, without intervals even for sleep. Death is their sole relief. Alas! those who living were denizens of the central flowery country, dead, their ghosts wander in strange lands. Oh, azure heaven above! in this way are destroyed our righteous people.'

"Realizing the friendly attitude of Americans toward their country, the Chinese coolies in Peru sent to the American legation in Lima a curious and affecting petition, setting forth their pitiable condition and praying that, through its government, the Emperor of China might be moved to intercede in their behalf. This petition was presented by the American minister at Pekin to the tsung-li-yamen, with the suggestion of a course which might be followed to secure relief without danger of foreign entanglements.

Sympathetic But Inefficient.

"He reports that the officials of the Yamen expressed their sympathy with their suffering countrymen, regretted that they should have been inveigled into such a miserable, cruel servitude, and hoped that the evils would soon be mitigated; but he states that they had no vivid sense of their own responsibilities in the matter, did not respond to his suggestion of a remedy and took no steps for the amelioration of the sad lot of the petitioners and the scores of thousands of other Chinese similarly situated.

"The explanation made by the American minister for this surprising indifference of the Pekin officials was that their secluded position and prejudices of education and etiquette prevented them from learning the true state of the world and deterred them from any new step in foreign intercourse. Added to this was the fact that the interests of the great empire were not seriously affected by the exodus of a few hundred thousands from the swarming population of the southern provinces.

"During the negotiations which resulted in the treaty of 1858, one of the Chinese plenipotentiaries, in response to a suggestion that his government should send consuls abroad to look after the interests of the Emperor's subjects settled in foreign lands, said, 'When the Emperor rules over so many millions, what does he care for the few waifs that have drifted away to a foreign land?' It was stated that some of those in the United States were growing rich from the gold mines, and that they might be worth looking after on that account. 'The Emperor's wealth,' he replied, 'is beyond computation; why should he care for those of his subjects who have left their home, or for the sands they have scooped together?'"

The whole chapter on Chinese exclusion is intensely interesting, bearing as it does on a question which is by no means settled even now—the relations between the Caucasian and other races in a free republic. It contains a brief record of the more important arguments and papers presented when the matter was brought up at the time of the "Sand-lot" agitation, and of the treaties which resulted therefrom.

On the whole, perhaps the strongest impression one gets from this record of the relations between the Orient and the United States is that there were some good reasons for the exclusiveness of Oriental countries. In most negotiations the United States appears to have been more liberal and just than European countries in its dealings with the men in yellow, for which let us be thankful. But again and again, in the course of the history of the opening up of the Orient, we come upon incidents like that of the visit of the half-caste Hawaiian diplomat to Samoa, ostensibly for the purpose of making an alliance between that country and Hawaii. This embassy was sent forth at the instance of an adventurer named Gibson, who had gained much influence with King Kalakaua.

Wished They Had Stayed Away.

Its arrival was celebrated by a banquet, after which many Samoan chiefs had to be carried to their homes. The comment of the Samoan King on this proceeding was: "If you have come to teach my people to drink, I wish you had stayed away." It seems too often to have happened that Oriental rulers might have said to their Occidental guests: "If you have come to teach my people bad habits, I wish you had stayed away."

The dishonesty, intemperance and overbearing spirit shown by Europeans in dealing with the Orient would have made any people of intelligence and good sense suspicious, cold and exclusive. In such relations we might better follow, not the brute force plan of certain European nations, but the policy of forbearance, courtesy, firmness, and intelligent study of the situation originated by some of the early American envoys.

The history of Japan since its commerce with other nations began is full of unpleasantly significant occurrences. Mr. Foster says:

"The enforcement of the provisions of treaties as to ex-territorial jurisdiction was * * * objectionable to the Japanese. Not only were foreigners tried by their own consuls for offenses committed against Japan and its people, but the natives were required to prosecute their suites against foreigners in the consular courts of the defendants. It was humiliating enough even when the consuls had a legal education and were competent to administer justice, but often the persons who held these positions were ignorant of law and utterly unfitted for judicial duties. In the latter case the consular judges were in marked contrast to the Japanese judges, who were trained in their profession and independent of executive control.

"Even when the consuls were qualified in other respects for their duties, it was not always easy to divest themselves of partiality for their own countrymen, and this influence sometimes led to remarkable decisions. An example was that of an English merchant detected in trying to smuggle a large quantity of opium (a prohibited article) through the custom house, who was brought by the Japanese authorities before the British consular court. He was acquitted on the ground that it was 'medicinal opium,' and might be freely imported by paying the duty of 5 per cent levied on medicines.

High-Handed Interference.

"During a cholera epidemic in 1879 the Government established health regulations at the ports, which the British, German and some other ministers refused to recognize, and they claimed the right to enact regulations in the port for their own vessels. A German ship, coming directly from an infected port, was placed in quarantine outside of Yokohama, but under the orders of the German minister the vessel was taken out of quarantine by the consul, attended by a German man-of-war, and brought into port. General Grant, who was visiting in Japan at the time, was emphatic in his denunciation of the European diplomats, and said the Government would have been justified in sinking the German ship. The British minister gave instructions to the consuls of his nation to disregard entirely the regulations. On the other hand, the American minister required all the vessels of his nationality to observe the quarantine. Over one hundred thousand Japanese lost their lives by the epidemic."

Imagine the row that would have been raised if a Japanese vessel had so disregarded the quarantine regulations of any "Christian" government. It seems a little inconsistent that pagan nations should be the only ones required to keep to a strict observance of the Golden Rule. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

WITH THE WRITERS OF BOOKS

Here Are New Stories About Men and Women Who Are Famous in the World of Letters

Good and True Anecdotes Concerning Those We Know as Writers of Fiction

STRUGGLE OF "CHIMMIE FADDEN"

IN "Lees and Leaven," a novel, Edward W. Townsend has been making another struggle to get out of his "Chimmie Fadden" reputation, but candor compels one to admit that his efforts are something like those of the frog in the well, in the old books of arithmetic, and that though the passing fame of some other character may for a time overshadow "Chimmie," he remains the most striking of the author's creations, and "De Duchess" the most definite of his heroines. One reads "Lees and Leaven" and forgets the very name of the heroine, but who could forget the Duchess at the Horse Show?

The present book begins in the West and ends in New York. The idea of the story apparently is the contrasting of the two classes of humanity picturesquely called by Ella Wheeler Wilcox "the people who lift and the people who lean." In other words, the hero and heroine are bright, ambitious workers, while sundry others in the tale are bent on attaining their ends by fraud and laziness. There is some good description in the book, notably that of the Tenderloin region and of "Smiling Harry," the peddler of seafood. The plot is also worked out with fair success.

There is present, however, the same element of caricature, of the grotesque, of the unreal, which made "Chimmie" a success, but which, when mingled as it is here with realistic detail and commonplace incident, has the effect of making the latter seem flat, and of seeming itself melodramatic. Exaggeration is not a bad literary method, but if used it should be kept by itself. To mingle the eccentric and normal results in such a creation as was described by Horace in caustic Latin verse is an example of "how to do it."

If Mr. Townsend were to go back to his earlier method he might produce something wild but good, but those methods seem to have spoiled him for realistic fiction as effectually as his hero was spoiled for work on respectable papers by the "Chronicle" reputation, which trailed after him like a bad odor. (New York: McClure, Phillips & Co.)

ONE VIEW OF STIRLING.

The fact that Bliss Carman, the present editor of the "Literary World," is himself a poet, and a true and fine one, may account for this sympathetic comment on the "Journal of Arthur Stirling," found in that periodical:

"The modernest of modern tragedies, more pitiful than the classic, because there is no sublimity in it; more terrifying to us moderns, because the seeds of this tragedy of discouragement are in us all, and it is only by watching that we can keep them from sprouting. We have, very few of us, written our hearts in a poem, as did Arthur Stirling, and we do not die because we cannot find a publisher, but we all have a heart's desire, and most of us do not achieve it. To each, his failure is more bitter than any other failure. To one, the mischance of a poem seems a trivial thing for death; to Arthur Stirling, an unsuccessful stock gamble would have been no high cause for the river. So, in reading the journal, one must banish the cause of its writing—must take only, and to his own heart, if he wishes to get the full sensation from the book, the loss of heart's desire.

"The story of Arthur Stirling can be told in a few words. He was young, sensitive, a poet, poor, impressionable; he worked at sordid things for bread; he wrote a blank verse tragedy, 'The Captive,' which no publisher would accept; he lost faith and hope, and he drowned himself in the Hudson River. He left behind him this journal, a record of his thoughts and his sensations, hardly of his life, for he scarcely had one. Not a pretty story! No, nor a book to be considered in the ordinary way, either by critic or reader—if he takes the journal to be the actual record of an actual life."

MISPLACED ADJECTIVES.

Frank Norris seems to be one of those men of genius who are fated to be described by phrases which do not belong to them. Here we have a critic referring to his work in this fashion:

"From the dainty 'Moran of the Lady Letty' through the brutal 'McTeague,' the breezy 'Blix,' and the over-realistic 'A Man's Woman.'"

Now, who that read the fight of Moran and her lover against the beachcombers over that lump of ambergris, could ever call "Moran" a dainty book? And why should "A Man's Woman" be dubbed over-realistic, when the very core and center of its plot is the attraction of a masculine woman for an ultra-masculine man—precisely the kind of thing that does not happen in this world?

THE ORIGINAL OF AUDREY.

On the fly leaf of a copy of "Audrey" presented to Eleanor Robson, Miss Johnston transcribed Wordsworth's poem, beginning "Three years she grew in sun and shower." She added this note: "The first suggestion (afterward, of course, enlarged and altered) of the character of Audrey, and hence of this book, was drawn from the above lines of Wordsworth."

A NEW EDITION OF EMERSON.

On the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ralph Waldo Emerson, a centenary edition of his works will appear. In examining the Emerson manuscripts for this purpose the editors found that there was enough unpublished matter to form one or two new volumes.

IRISH ROMANCE.

"The Courtship of Ferb" will be the first volume in a series of examples of early Irish romance, to be published by the New Amsterdam Book Company.

A CALIFORNIA NOVELIST.

Cora Miranda Older, or Mrs. Fremont Older, as she prefers to be known in authorship, is an entirely new figure in literature. Her novel, "The Socialist and the Prince," is the first work she has published which is even remotely ambitious. While always purposing at some time to do creative work in literature, she has heretofore applied herself to absorbing knowledge rather than imparting it. She is an American girl—born in New York—and received a thorough and systematic, though somewhat varied, education in private schools, under tutors, and, for a time, at Syracuse University.

THE DOUKHOBORS.

An illustrated book on the Doukhobors, by Joseph Elkinton, of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends, is soon to appear. The author calls the Doukhobors "the Russian Quakers," and endeavors to set right certain alleged misconceptions of their aims and character.

VALENTINES.

We are told that among the books largely bought for valentines in Chicago this year S. E. Kiser's "Love Sonnets of an Office Boy" was popular. It is safe to say that it was not the office boy who did the buying, however.

A PARODY.

"Mrs. McPiggs, of the Very Old Scratch," is the name under which a parody of a certain popular story appears. It is the work of Frank C. Voorhies, and no one need ask what the caricatured volume was.

TWO FRENCH EXILES.

The introduction of the characters of M. De Montefort and his daughter, Renee, the French refugees who figure in "The Trail of the Grand Signeur," was suggested to the author through a bona fide historical fact. Among the many who were driven from France during the Terror were a nobleman and his daughter, the latter a mere child. The Frenchman quitted his disturbed country for these shores with great difficulty, taking his child, who had been committed to a convent for safe keeping.

They removed to a rude cabin in the all but unbroken wilderness of northern New York, the nobleman having supervision of some large forest holdings for some French compatriots. The daughter cheerfully shared his years of exile and performed the domestic tasks. Roving hunters and trappers knew the cabin well, where they were most hospitably entertained, being charmed with the exquisite beauty and grace of the daughter, who finally married a young Frenchman and lived thereafer a little south of the present village of Deer River.

Her father made his home with her after her marriage, and died there in 1830. He was a man of fervent piety, spending much of his time on his knees in prayer. After he was dead the skin upon his knees was found to be calloused. It was hardened to the bone by almost constant kneeling.

MORE AMERICANA.

The next book in the New Amsterdam Book Company's series of reprints of rare Americana will be "A Journal of Voyages and Travels in the Interior of North America," by Daniel Williams Harmon. Mr. Harmon was a partner in the Northwest company and spent nearly nineteen years among the Indians.

A NEW BOOK ON PARIS.

F. Berkeley Smith, son of F. Hopkinson Smith, has written a new book called "How Paris Amuses Itself." Mr. Smith's first book, which appeared last year, was also about Paris, and its brightness gives one hopes for this. It is a pity, however, that the title could not have been put in French. "Paris s'amuse" has a far more chic and expressive look than the English of it.

APPLIED POWER.

The March number of "Science and Industry," a magazine devoted to literature on applied power, will be useful to those engaged in steam engineering. Among the subjects treated are the exhaust steam injector, the power required for wireless telegraphy, new methods for hardening steel, and fireproof wood.

A NEW ENGLAND NOVELIST.

Annie Eliot Trumbull, author of a number of short stories, and one long one, entitled "A Cape Cod Week," is engaged upon a novel to be called "Life's Common Way," to be published soon. She has a gift for telling common things in a quaint and clever fashion.

A LIFE OF HORACE GREELEY.

A comprehensive life of Horace Greeley has been written by William A. Linn, who was associated with Mr. Greeley for some time as a member of the editorial staff of the "Tribune." The book belongs to the Appletons' Historic Lives Series.

MR. BROWNELL'S "FRENCH ART."

The "London Saturday Review" says of W. C. Brownell's "French Art:"

"Mr. Brownell is the opposite, in some respects, of Mr. Henley. We do not get from him the whole-souled advocacy of the thing admired, but neither do we get impatient, despite of the thing indifferent. He is rather conscientiously reasonable about everything he includes, and sometimes stretches a point to include things that might be thought beyond the bounds of patience.

"French trained, rather than English, like many American writers, he believes that academies work for the salvation of art. The ideal academy would do that, we may all admit, by upholding what is eternal against fashion; but academies actually are too often mere fashion freezers.

"With all this critical prepossession, Mr. Brownell's sympathies kindle over great art where he finds it, and for those who desire a markedly intelligent, lucidly expressed and temperate study of French art from Claude Lorrain to Claude Monet and from Claux Sluters to Auguste Bodin, no better sketch exists in English than Mr. Brownell's essay."

A NEW DEPARTURE.

A new sort of magazine criticism is begun by "The Bookman" in its current number, and it is pointed and effective at any rate. The critic proceeds on the basis indicated in the following extract.

"The 'Century' contains some very artistic work on Hot Air Pumps, Pearline Girls, Fountain Pens, and noticeably the Tar Soap Lady. The cover is decorated with a delightful color scheme by the Royal Baking Powder artist, and just inside a fascinating maid opens a can of Libbey's Corned-beef Hash. I am sorry to say that the Father and Mother of Our Country honor the backs of some playing cards (cannot the ladies of the W. C. T. U. switch off from the canteen on to this?), and the popular author of Hand Sapolio offers yet another story."

A WAR JOURNAL.

The death of Julian Ralph, famous as a war correspondent, calls to mind a unique venture in which he was interested, in collaboration with Conan Doyle and Rudyard Kipling—namely, the publication of a newspaper in the field during the Boer war. It was called "The Friend," and has been put in permanent form under the title of "War's Brighter Side," and dedicated to Field Marshal Lord Roberts.

It abounds with anecdotes, of which the following is a sample:

"CHESTNUTTY—BUT GOOD.

"To the Editor of The Friend: Sir, Is this a chestnut? Johannes Paulus Kruger sent a commissioner home to England to find out if there were any more men left there. The commissioner wired from London to say that there were 4,000,000 men and women 'knocking about the town,' that there was no excitement, and that men were begging to be sent to fight the Boers. Kruger wired back, 'Go north.' The commissioner found himself in Newcastle evidently, and wired to Kruger, 'For God's sake, stop the war! England is bringing up men from hell, eight at a time, in cages!'

"He had seen a coal mine."

AN ENTERPRISING BRITON.

"Penal Servitude," by W. B. N., is a book which has an interest for the sociologist, because it is a view of prison life from the inside, and it may have an additional fascination for the general public from the fact that it is written by Lord William Nevill, who has served a term of four years for fraud. It is not every day that a person gets the opportunity of reading the experiences of one who has been a real, live lord and a real, live convict at one and the same time.

NEW ROMANCE BY THE CASTLES.

A beautiful young widow, Ellinor Marvel, is the heroine of "The Star Dreamer," the latest romance by Agnes and Egerton Castle, which has just been published.

No new novel from the pen of the authors of "The Pride of Jennico," "The Bath Comedy," etc., appeared during 1902, so that the new story will have a warmer welcome both because of its delayed publication in book form and because of the return on the part of its authors to their earlier manner—that of "The Light of Scarthey" and "Young April."

OLD CHINA.

"The Book of Old China," by Mrs. N. Hudson Moore, is promised for immediate publication.

Mrs. Moore is well known to collectors and lovers of old china through her numerous articles that have appeared in "Leslie's Monthly" and in the "Delineator." She is to treat more fully of her subject than has been done in any former publication, and the recent notable increase in the prices of the old wares largely covered by her work will give a new interest to an important treatise on the subject.

Especial attention is to be given to Staffordshire, Wedgewood, Leicester, and other English pottery and porcelain.

A POEM AND A NOVEL.

We are told that A. W. Hornung's forthcoming novel, "No Hero," derived its name and its central idea from Browning's poem, "A Light Woman." It has long been apparent to students of Browning that that poem contained a whole novel, but it had not been expected that anybody would write it.

The dramatic interest depends entirely upon that of the affections of a young man, wavering between two opposite types of woman, and of one of these women in a like dilemma. But the still younger man, "the perfect Eton boy," is the type which the writer is most anxious to depict faithfully.

The lines from Browning that proved so suggestive to Mr. Hornung are these:

And I, what I seem to my friend, you see:
What I soon shall seem to his love, you guess:
What I seem to myself, do you ask of me?
No hero, I confess.

MR. CRAWFORD'S REASON.

In a recent interview, F. Marion Crawford avers that he likes to write, otherwise he could not write at all. It was hardly necessary for him to state that he enjoys writing novels. The public, observing with awe the number of them, supposed that he did.

A QUEER COINCIDENCE.

The publishers say that Cyrus Townsend Brady's new novel, "The Southerners," got its title in rather a curious way, after it had been completed. Mr. Brady and his friends had racked their brains in vain for a title, when some one called attention to the fact that, without designing it or even realizing the coincidence until after the book was written, the author had chosen to describe two great battles in both of which the Union forces were commanded by Southern men; that George H. Thomas, "the Rock of Chickamauga," was a Virginian; that Farragut was born in Tennessee and appointed to the navy from Louisiana; that Drayton, Farragut's captain and chief of staff, was a Carolinian; that Watson, his flag lieutenant, was another Southerner. And so it goes through the whole story.

WOMEN IN CANADA.

Lady Aberdeen Reads Interesting Paper Before Society of Arts.

At the Society of Arts last night Lady Aberdeen read a paper on "Women in Canada," a subject on which, as much from her own influence in the Dominion as from her position as wife of a recent governor general of Canada, she spoke with peculiar authority. Leonard Courtney presided at the lecture. After tracing the influence of women in the earliest history of Canada, and after an allusion to that great and gallant band of heroic women who left comfortable homes in the American colonies in the days of the American Revolution, and sought a refuge in what were then the wilds of Canada, sooner than renounce their allegiance to the British flag, Lady Aberdeen paid no less eloquent a tribute to those women settlers of more recent years, who, by their devotion, their unremitting toil, and unmurmuring acceptance of hardships, have done so much to build up the great Canada of today. Such women and such men as these settlers had been building up for Britain an empire in the Golden West, and as the result of the toil of their hands and brains, their high character, their endurance, their determination to provide education at any cost for their children, they had created a people and a new "nation." The chief impression made on herself, declared Lady Aberdeen, after very close intercourse and friendship with them, might be summed up in one word—"efficiency."—Daily Graphic.